Purchase of Boeing 737 P8A multi-mission maritime aircraft

1668. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that since the PC-3 Orion maritime surveillance aircraft is hanging fire, the Indian Navy has expressed its interest to buy Boeing-737 P8A multi-mission maritime aircraft to replace the ageing PC-3 orion platform; and

(b) if so, the reasons for keeping P8A multi-mission maritime aircraft and the reasons for delay in getting PC-3 orion from USA?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) A Request for Proposal (RFP) on global basis for procurement of Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance Anti-Submarine Warfare (LRMRASW) aircraft has been issued to vendors world wide including the manufacturers of P3C Orion aircraft and Navy International Program Office, USA. Boeing P8A is a futuristic platform, which is under development and at conceptual stage.

Establishment of ski village in H.P.

†1669. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been entered into with any foreign company to establish a ski village in around 100 acres of land of Manali and adjacent area in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether this ski village will be constructed in border area, where at present logistics and arms through Leh-Laddakh, Lahol Spiti etc. are supplied to the soldiers guarding the borders of our country;

(c) if so, whether it has been ensured that it will not cause any security threat to the country; and

(d) whether no objection certificate has been obtained from the Ministry of Defence?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Government is not aware of any agreement entered into with any foreign company to establish a ski village in around 100 acres of land of Manali and adjacent area in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Mandatory AIDS test for recruits in army

†1670. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:
SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is contemplating to make AIDS test compulsory in future for the first time for the applicants before recruiting them in the army; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The proposal to make Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) test mandatory for new entrants into the Armed Forces is under consideration.

Infiltration attempts by terrorists

1671. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of infiltration attempts made by terrorists from Pakistan to cross the LoC for terrorist activities into India;

(b) the comparable figures for three previous years; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the terrorist infrastrcuture is still intact in Pakistan specially PoK?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) A total of 108, 79 and 61 infiltration/exfiltration bids were eliminated by the Army on Line of Control (LoC) in the year 2003, 2004

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.